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Hon. James Keith, President Judge of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia, had prepared the following address for delivery at Mt. Vernon on Wednesday, October 21, 1914, but was prevented by illness from attendance.

JUDGE KEITH'S ADDRESS.

I am charged with the pleasing duty of welcoming you to Virginia, to her Holy of Holies, to Mount Vernon, where "Washington hath left his awful memory a light for aftertimes." We seem to be in, and to feel, his presence. The calm, the repose, the dignity of this hallowed spot are in perfect tune and harmony with his character. If History be Philosophy teaching by example, to what fountain of inspiration shall we go to learn pure and exalted lessons of all that elevates and ennobles man, of all that tends to make him a good and virtuous citizen; where, if not to the tomb of him who was acclaimed by a nation's voice, "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

To lawyers, above all men, the memory and example of Washington should be dear. The ruling principle of his character was love of law and order; throughout life, from youth to age, in all things small and great, it was the dominant force that shaped and controlled his life. Who among men has done so much for his fellow-man? Wise in counsel, brave but cautious in action, with a fortitude unshaken by disaster, and a prudence which the smiles of fortune could not beguile, he won the liberties of his country from a people of kindred blood, renowned from the dawn of history in peace and war, whose "morning drum-beat, following the sun, and keeping company with the hours, still circles the earth with one unbroken strain of the martial airs of England."

The result of the War of the Revolution consecrated this land to liberty and law. What a mighty benefaction to mankind, in which

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the apparent loser has gained no less than the victor! History taught by a great example, and Great Britain wisely conned the lesson; and to-day her colonies no longer chafe under her rule, but in time of trial India remembers that Great Britain has curbed famine within her borders, and Egypt how the Nile has been made to enlarge its bounty.

The wisdom of Washington was never more apparent, was never exerted with greater advantage to his country, than in the convention that framed the Constitution of the United States. He had just come through a war of seven years, in which he had won never-dying fame. His voice was potential in moulding the institutions under which the country whose independence he had achieved was to be governed. A character less strong, less perfectly balanced than his, might well have felt some perturbation of mind which would have prejudiced him against English laws and institutions. Not so with Washington. Then, as at all times, his unerring judgment tried every proposition by the light of experience: following the injunction of the great Apostle, he "proved all things and held fast to that which was good": and in this time of some real and much self-proclaimed progress, it would be well for us, too, to recall the mandate of St. Paul, and, proving all things, hold fast to that which is good.

I am always pleased to remember that when "grim-visaged War had smoothed his wrinkled front," and the people of these United States were seeking to write into their Constitution the results of that mighty struggle, our wisest and most learned men could not do better than go back seven centuries to the meadow of Runnymede, and ordain that henceforth "no state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law." What a caveat was there to all reformers! What a light was thrown upon the pathway of true progress!

The frontiers of Rome at the height of her power were guarded by "ancient renown and disciplined valor." The fields of Europe are being drenched and its rivers made red with the blood of nations that have led the world in every field of physical, intellectual and moral endeavor. Not alone their boundaries, but their

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homes, their firesides and their altars, rest upon force to defend them, and in all time the rule of the strongest has been respected and obeyed. What a contrast a kind Providence enables us to present! From the Atlantic to the Pacific our northern border marches with that of Canada for more than three thousand miles, unwatched by a soldier or a fort. The United Kingdom and the United States! Sprung from a common stock, speaking a common language, living under kindred laws and institutions, may they know no rivalries, save as to which shall adhere most faithfully to the mandates of truth and justice, and strive most earnestly to insure the blessings of peace on earth, to men of good will!

Having won for us our liberty, having aided in establishing wise institutions tried by time and cemented by the blood of many generations, Washington, in his immortal farewell address, has taught us how these blessings are to be preserved; and preserved they will be as long as the Potomac shall murmur a requiem to his memory, if we and those who come after us shall follow his example and hearken to his precepts.

The soul of the Jew is kindled at the thought of Jerusalem; the Mohammedan at the hour of prayer falls prostrate with his face toward Mecca; the heart of the patriot gains force on the plain of Marathon; and the Christian finds his faith grow stronger among the ruins of Iona; while all men, of whatever clime or creed, who love liberty regulated by law, give thanks to Almighty God for George Washington. To all such, on this day, Virginia extends her kindly greeting and her hearty welcome.

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